

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2099

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BONN PASS AMBASSADORS STRAUSS, MCDONALD, WOLFF

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS PRESS
CONFERENCE

1. INITIAL PRESS COVERAGE OF STRAUSS PRESS CONFERENCE
JULY 14 WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE, JUDGING BY EUROPEAN AND
WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE WE HAVE THUS FAR SEEN HERE. ONLY
NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS AP REPORT. WE UNDERSTAND U.S. COVER-
AGE IN NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, JOURNAL OF
COMMERCE AND WALL STREET JOURNAL IS ALSO BALANCED AND
GENERALLY FAVORABLE.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY EXCERPTS:

3. FINANCIAL TIMES HAD A PROMINENT PAGE ONE STORY ENTIT-
LED "WORLD TRADE REFORM BY YEAR-END, SAY INDUSTRIAL
NATIONS." STORY LEAD SAYS "THE WORLD'S LEADING INDUSTRIAL
NATIONS TODAY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FINAL AGREEMENT ON
A COMPREHENSIVE REFORM AND LIBERALIZATION OF THE WORLD

TRADE SYSTEM COULD BE REACHED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS." ARTICLE QUOTES AMB. STRAUSS STATEMENT THAT "THE BACK OF THE TOKYO ROUND HAS BEEN TOTALLY BROKEN." STORY CONTINUES, "NOBODY HERE TODAY, HOWEVER, WAS HIDING THE FACT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING STILL LIES AHEAD, PARTICULARLY ON THE KEY ISSUES OF AGRICULTURE, SAFEGUARDS AND SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES."

4. LONDON TIMES STORY ENTITLED "WORLD TRADE DOCUMENT HAILED BY U.S. AS A 'DRAMATIC ADVANCE'" FEATURES PICTURE OF AMB STRAUSS AND STARTS "ALMOST FIVE YEARS AFTER NEGOTIATIONS FIRST BEGAN ON THE MOST AMBITIOUS OVERHAUL OF THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM EVER UNDERTAKEN, THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS HAVE FINALLY AGREED ON A DOCUMENT WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR EXPANDING THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND CONTAINING THE DRIFT TO PROTECTIONISM." STORY REFERS TO FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT AS "A KIND OF PROGRESS REPORT" POINTING OUT THE AREAS WHERE NEGOTIATION ON CUTTING IMPORT TARIFFS AND CURBING RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES HAVE ADVANCED AND WHERE MUCH HARD BARGAINING STILL HAS TO BE DONE. ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF ARTICLE IS DESCRIPTION OF AMB STRAUSS' PRESS COMMENTS BEGINNING WITH REFERENCE TO DOCUMENT AS "DRAMATIC ADVANCE".

5. GUARDIAN TITLE IS "MAJOR TRADING NATIONS SEEK ACCORD".
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LEAD SAYS "THE WORLD'S MAJOR TRADING NATIONS TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY EXPECT TO CONCLUDE THE MTN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND SET THE STAGE FOR A STRONG POLITICAL PUSH TOWARDS SUCH AN ACCORD FROM THE SUMMIT STARTING IN BONN TOMORROW." ARTICLE SAID THE "JOINT STATEMENT. . . SOUNDED AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO THE MTN WHILE ADMITTING THAT CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES REMAIN ." STORY DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO DESCRIPTION OF FRAMEWORK PAPER AND ALSO INCLUDED UNIDENTIFIED LDC NEGOTIATOR'S COMPLAINT AT THE "CLUBISHNESS" OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ARTICLE STATED "THE MAIN TRADING PARTNERS WERE NOW LOOKING FOR A DECLARATION OF POLITICAL WILL FROM THE BONN SUMMIT. . . ONLY SUCH POLITICAL IMPETUS WOULD SUCCEED IN CLOSING THE KEY GAPS STILL REMAINING ON ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES."

6. AP/DOW JONES DISPATCH TITLED "MAJOR TRADING NATIONS ANNOUNCE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN WORLD TRADE TALKS; BELIEVES RULES FOR 1980'S TRADING SYSTEM WILL BE SET BY YEAR-END." LEAD STATES, "THE WORLD'S MAJOR TRADING NATIONS THURSDAY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS TO SET NEW RULES FOR TARIFFS

AND TRADE IN THE 1980'S AND THAT THEY EXPECT TO COMPLETE A WIDE-RANGING AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR, IF NOT EARLIER." AFTER QUOTING FROM STRAUSS' PRESS CONFERENCE, ARTICLE CONTRASTED HIS REMARKS WITH OTHERS, SAYING, "WHILE OTHER TRADE NEGOTIATORS WERE NOT QUITE AS EBULLIENT, THEY SEEMED TO SHARE STRAUSS' VIEW THAT THE POLITICAL HURDLES HAD BEEN CROSSED AND THAT WHAT REMAINED TO BE DONE WAS A LOT OF HARD BARGAINING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD." DISPATCH GIVES LENGTHY DESCRIPTION OF FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT, NOTING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND LACK THEREOF.

7. UPI LEAD SAID "THE BIG WESTERN NATIONS AT THE TOKYO ROUND TRADE LIBERALIZATION TALKS THURSDAY RENEWED A GENERAL COMMITMENT TO FREER AND FAIRER TRADE, BUT CON-
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CEDED THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE ANY FINAL AGREEMENT. . .THE REPORT NOTED BASIC AGREEMENT ON WHAT EVERYONE WANTS TO DO BUT THAT A LOT OF WORK REMAINS IN DOING IT." DISPATCH DESCRIBED THE FRAMEWORK STATEMENT AND ENDED WITH STRAUSS' QUOTE ON PROGRESS. "THERE HAS BEEN DRAMATIC PROGRESS,' HE SAID, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO BASIC AGREEMENTS IN SUCH NON-TARIFF SECTORS AS SUBSIDIES AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT WHICH, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN TACKLED FOR THE FIRST TIME 'IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD TRADE."

8. SWISS PRESS REPORTS, WHICH ARE WIDELY READ BY NEGOTIATORS HERE AND PRESUMABLY REPORTED BACK TO CAPITALS, WERE LARGELY POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH ON BALANCE NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG STORY WAS NOT. TITLE OF JOURNAL DE GENEVE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LEADING FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPER, SAID "TOKYO ROUND: THE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS COMMIT THEMSELVES COLLECTIVELY TO ITS SUCCESS." STORY CONTINUED "THIS DOCUMENT, IN THE VIEW OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH DRAFTED IT, FORMS A SOLID BASE FOR NEGOTIATING THE FINAL PHASE AND CONTAINS ALL THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL PACKAGE." AGEFI, FINANCIAL DAILY DISTRIBUTED IN SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE, PAGE ONE STORY WAS ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON TEXT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS." LEAD STATED "A STATE OF PLAY, A POLITICAL COMMITMENT, SOME INDICATIONS OF POINTS OF DIVERGENCE--SUCH IS IN ESSENCE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A DECLARATION DISTRIBUTED THURSDAY IN GENEVA." STORY HIGHLIGHTED POSITIVE STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR DUNKEL TO THE PRESS AND REFERRED TO "AREAS OF NEGOTIATION" SUGGESTED BY THE FRAMEWORK TEXT: "IT LISTED THEM AND EVEN OPENED THE WAY TO NEW AND VARIED FORMS OF COOPERATION. THUS FAR AGRICULTURE--AN AREA WHERE 'WE HOPE TO MAKE MORE PROGRESS' ACCORDING TO THE U.S. STATEMENT THURSDAY--THE FRAMEWORK MEMORANDUM SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A VERITABLE PERMANENT DIALOGUE. NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG STATED "TO BE SURE, NO 'FINAL PACKAGE' WITH SYNCHRONIZED CONCESSIONS WAS TO BE EXPECTED; BUT THAT MANY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS HAVE HAD TO BE DECLARED UNSOLVED AND THAT ONLY SOME OF THE NEGOTIATORS SIGNED IT THROWS A SHADOW OVER THE ACHIEVEMENT THAT CAN BE DOWNPLAYED BUT NOT DENIED."

9. NEW YORK TIMES STORY "TRADE PACT DRAFTED FOR BONN TALKS" SAID "THE U.S. AND OTHER MAJOR WESTERN POWERS AGREED ON NEW STEPS TOWARD LIBERALIZED WORLD TRADE AND THE ELIMINATION OF UNFAIR COMMERCIAL PRACTICES. THEY HOPE THE AGREEMENT. . .CAN FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW SET OF INTERNATIONAL TRADING RULES FOR 1980." WASHINGTON POST

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ITEM "TRADE TALKS AGREE ON A STATUS REPORT," LED WITH
"THE U.S. REACHED AGREEMENT WITH ITS MAJOR TRADING
PARTNERS INCLUDING JAPAN YESTERDAY ON A JOINT STATUS REPORT
ON THE PROTRACTED TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SPELLS OUT
THE FRAMEWORK FOR A TRADE PACT." POST STATED THAT THE
REPORT "FALLS SHORT OF HOPES EXPRESSED" LAST JANUARY, BUT
NOTED THAT THE "DEADLINE SERVED AS A CATALIST FOR SOME
BREAKTHROUGHS." WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE TITLED
"NEGOTIATORS SEEKING LIBERALIZED PROGRESS: SEE ACCORD
BY YEAR END." LEAD STATED "TRADE NEGOTIATORS FOR THE
U.S., EC, JAPAN REPORTED SOME PROGRESS ON LIBERALIZING
WORLD TRADE BUT ALSO SAID THAT MUCH HARD BARGAINING AND
TECHNICAL WORK REMAINED. STORY SAID STATEMENT "FELL FAR
SHORT OF THE DETAILED AGREEMENT SOME GOVERNMENTS HAD
HOPED TO REACH BY NOW. INSTEAD THE GOVERNMENTS PLEDGED
TO WRAP UP THE PACKAGE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR." JOURNAL
OF COMMERCE STORY LED WITH AIRCRAFT, THEN SAID NEGOTIATORS
"ALSO AGREED ON A FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING ON REDUCING
TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE
WHICH CONTAINS MAJOR ELEMENTS OF A COMPLETE PACKAGE DEAL
FOR THE TOKYO ROUND. BUT THE UNDERSTANDING LEAVES TARIFFS
ON SOME IMPORTANT PRODUCTS AND AGRICULTURE AS TOUGH NUTS
STILL LEFT TO CRACK."

10. WE UNDERSTAND FROM JAPAN DELEGATION THAT JAPANESE
PRESS IS EMPHASIZING PROGRESS ANGLE. CULBERT

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